Executive Proclamation
State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, Freeman was founded when the Chicago, Milwaukee, and Saint Paul Railroad crossed Hutchinson County to connect small towns to Yankton in 1879; and,

Whereas, Freeman was named rather uniquely by a confusion of signs between Menno and Freeman because the early community was settled by many Mennonite pioneers; other sources report that when the railroad purchased land from a settler, his response in German relayed that he was released from debt and was now a "free man." Neither if these stories has been officially documented; and,

Whereas, Christ Buechler was known as the "Father of Freeman" because, as an entrepreneur, he moved his merchandise store from Yankton to Freeman when the railroad came through; and,

Whereas, Mr. Buechler ran a banking business from his home and assisted early Freeman in developing businesses to establish a large trade area; and,

Whereas, Freeman has developed and maintained values through faith and education which are visible today with ten churches, two schools, three banks, two grocery stores, two farm implement dealerships, weekly newspaper, hospital, comprehensive health care, library, swimming pool, golf course, two city parks, numerous manufacturing businesses, and many family friendly organizations; and,

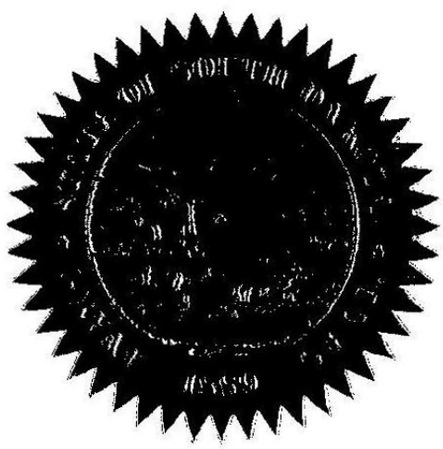
Whereas, Freeman is the home of Schmeckfest, a German-Russian ethnic celebration held each spring that involves the whole community:

Whereas, Freeman will celebrate its 125th anniversary celebration on June 25, 26, and 27, 2004:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim June 26, 2004, as

FREEMAN QUASQUICENTENNIAL DAY

in South Dakota.



In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Thirteenth Day of May in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Four.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State